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Amendment and/or Response  
Reply to Office action of 20 December 2006

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### REMARKS/DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

By this amendment, Applicant amends claims 17, 19 and 20, and add new claims 24-28.

Accordingly, claims 16-28 are pending in the application.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority documents.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to state whether the drawings are acceptable.

Claims 17, 19 and 20 are amended for non-statutory reasons, to remove reference numerals. The claims are not narrowed in scope and no new matter is added.

### 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103

The Office Action rejects claims 16-19 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over Yamazaki et al. U.S. Patent 6,501,094 ("Yamazaki"); and claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Yamazaki.

Applicant respectfully traverses all of these rejections for at least the following reasons.

#### Claim 16

Among other things, in the TFT of claim 16 the gate has been formed on the substrate by an etching process that involved formation of a tip in an apex region between the side edges of a radius of a few nanometres.

Applicant respectfully submits that Yamazaki does not include any such feature. Indeed, all of the FIGs. 1-12 and 14-15 of Yamazaki show a gate that has been formed on the substrate by an etching process that has **NOT** involved formation of a tip in an apex region. Also, in particular, Yamazaki does not mention any tip in an apex region between the side edges of a radius of a few nanometres.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Yamazaki does not disclose the TFT of claim 16.

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Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 16 is patentable over Yamazaki.

Claims 17-21

Claims 17-21 all depend from claim 16 and are deemed patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 16.

NEW CLAIMS 22-28

New claims 22-28 are all deemed patentable over Yamazaki for at least the following reasons.

Claims 22-23

Claims 22-23 depend from claim 16 and are deemed patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 16. Also, in the TFTs of claims 22 and 23, the channel region has a length of 20-40 nanometers. Yamazaki does not disclose any such feature.

Claims 24-28

Among other things, the TFTs of claims 24-28 all include a gate disposed on a substrate, the gate having side edges inclined towards one another to reach a tip having a radius of a few nanometers.

Applicant respectfully submits that Yamazaki does not disclose any gate having side edges inclined towards one another to reach a tip having a radius of a few nanometers.

Accordingly, for at least this reasons, claims 24-28 are all deemed patentable over Yamazaki.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing explanations, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and reexamine the present application, allow claims 16-28 and pass the application to issue. In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Kenneth D. Springer (Reg. No. 39,843) at (571) 283.0720 to discuss these matters.

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this reply to charge payment or credit any overpayment (except for the issue fee) to Deposit Account No. 50-0238 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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